

### **Consideration of the dedication of the Coal Hollow Nature Preserve in Parke County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 153.05 acre property in the north central portion of Parke County, approximately 3.5 miles north of the town of Bloomingdale and is within the Sugar Creek watershed. The Nature Preserve will protect a classic example of the deeply entrenched tributaries of Sugar Creek in Indiana's Entrenched Valley Section of the Central Till Plain Natural Region.

The Nature Preserve topography consists of a scenic rock walled gorge of over 80' in height features extensive outcrops of sandstone bedrock covered in unique cliff dwelling vegetation. Seeps in the fractured bedrock provide a cool and protected environment for many species of ferns and mosses.

An extensive and healthy stand of Eastern Hemlock occupies the upper rim of the gorge. These dense conifers provide habitat for unusual animals including Black-throated Green Warbler and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Many unique and beautiful plants including Blue Cohosh, Spikenard, Bulblet Fern, Walking Fern, Blue Ash, Witch Hazel, and Plantain-leaved Sedge are found in the preserve.

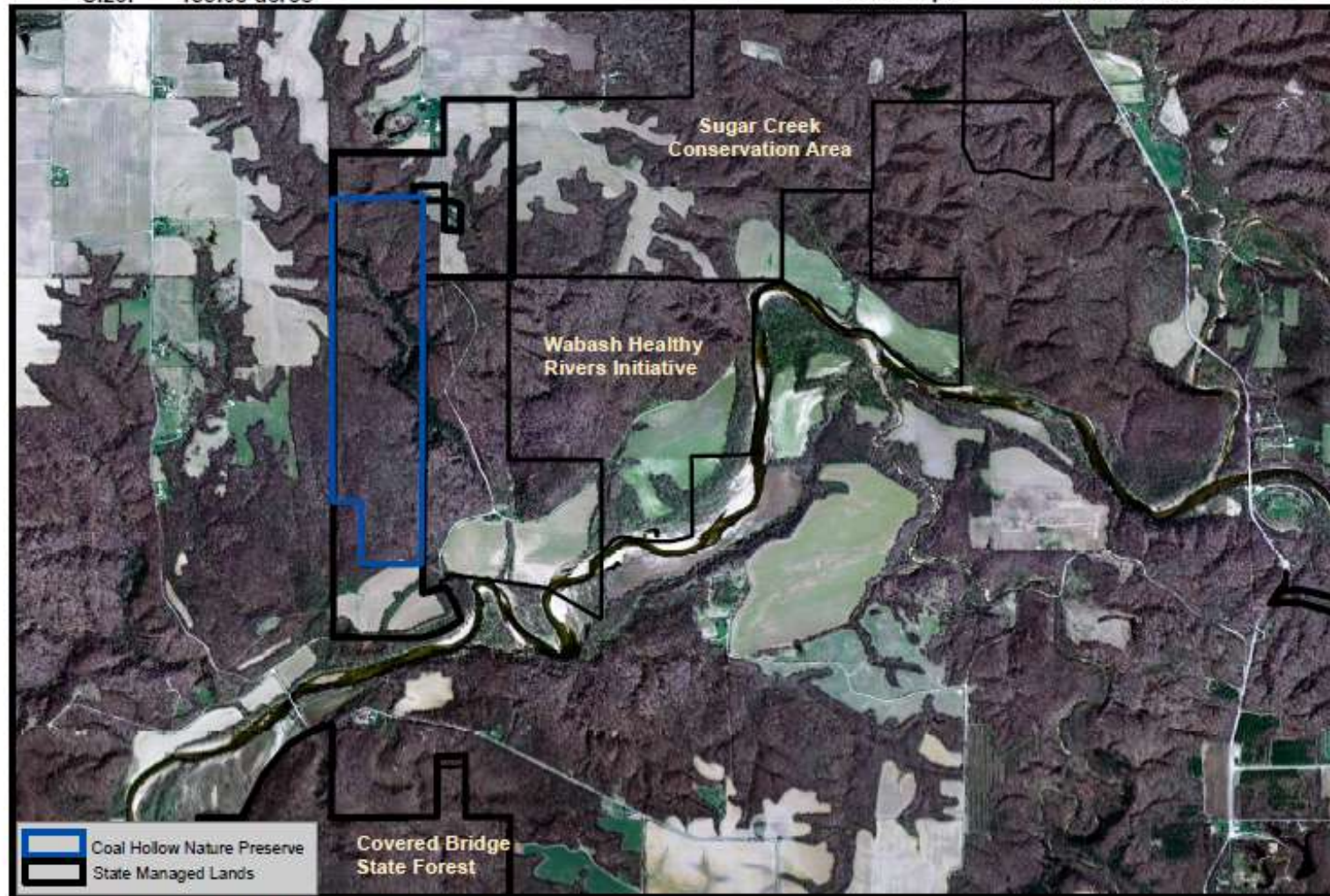
Coal Hollow is part of the Healthy Rivers Initiative, a large, significant conservation area along Sugar Creek involving many partners. It is part of a large forested stream corridor that includes Turkey Run State Park (to the east) and the Covered Bridge State Forest. This tract is owned and managed by the IDNR Division of Forestry and Division of Nature Preserves. It will be managed within the larger Healthy Rivers Initiative and will be open to hunting during designated seasons. The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve. Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

## Coal Hollow Nature Preserve

County: Parke  
Size: 153.05 acres

## Exhibit A

USGS Quad Map: Kingman  
Ownership: IDNR Nature Preserves



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 04.23.2014

0 0.375 0.75 Miles

